

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

Leonard R. Woods,

Case No.: 2:23-cv-00233-JAD-VCF

Petitioner

**Order Granting Motion for Leave to File  
Exhibit Under Seal**

V.

[ECF No. 19]

Jeremy Bean, et al.,

## Respondents

Counseled petitioner Leonard R. Woods filed a first amended petition for writ of habeas on September 6, 2023,<sup>1</sup> along with supporting exhibits.<sup>2</sup> He also filed a motion for leave to file one of his exhibits under seal, and he filed the exhibit in question under seal.<sup>3</sup>

Respondents did not respond to Woods's motion.

While there is a strong presumption in favor of public access to judicial filings and while courts prefer that the public retain access to them,<sup>4</sup> a court may seal its records if a party demonstrates “compelling reasons” to do so.<sup>5</sup> “Compelling reasons” exist where the records could be used for improper purposes.<sup>6</sup> The exhibit that Woods proposes to file under seal is a PowerPoint presentation, which was used at his trial, and which includes an autopsy photo depicting a nude body.

<sup>1</sup> ECF No. 17.

<sup>2</sup> ECF No. 18.

<sup>3</sup> ECF Nos. 19, 20.

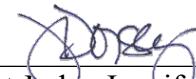
<sup>4</sup> See *Nixon v. Warner Communications, Inc.*, 435 U.S. 589, 597 (1978).

<sup>5</sup> See *Kamakana v. City & Cty. of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1178–79 (9th Cir. 2006).

<sup>6</sup> *Id.* at 1179 (citing *Nixon*, 435 U.S. at 598).

1 I find that there are compelling reasons for the exhibit to be filed under seal. So, IT IS  
2 ORDERED that Woods's motion for leave to file exhibit under seal [ECF No. 19] is  
3 **GRANTED**. As the exhibit in question—Exhibit 3—has already been filed under seal, the Clerk  
4 of Court is directed to **MAINTAIN THE SEAL on ECF No. 20**.

5 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that **Jeremy Bean is substituted for Brian Williams as**  
6 **the respondent warden** under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 25(d). The Clerk of the Court is  
7 directed to update the docket to reflect this change.



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9 U.S. District Judge Jennifer A. Dorsey  
September 29, 2023  
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